



**RRU**  
Review  
Comment  
Communicate

# The **REGULATION REVIEW UNIT**

Every week state agencies propose regulations that cumulatively affect nearly all economic activities and individuals in California. Each agency is responsible for assessing the impacts of its proposed regulations, and for soliciting and responding to public comments.

The Trade and Commerce Agency (TCA) is authorized to evaluate the findings and determinations of any state agency that proposes to adopt regulations. TCA is also authorized to submit written comments into the record of that agency (Government Code section 15363.6). The evaluation includes factors such as: reporting requirements; alternatives analyses; and impacts upon the state's businesses, economy, competitiveness, and job base. To enable TCA to exercise its authority, the Legislature established the Regulation Review Unit (RRU).

## The Role of RRU

RRU is responsible for determining whether state agencies have adequately assessed the economic and business impacts of the regulations they are proposing. However, RRU does not prepare the economic analyses required of agencies proposing regulations. RRU conducts objective and balanced reviews, without supporting or opposing regulations. In addition to reviewing regulations and submitting comments, RRU works with state agencies and regulated parties to encourage the selection of the best possible approach when a regulation is needed. RRU fills a void in the state rulemaking process, and seeks to improve the process by encouraging private sector participation.

## Contacting RRU

RRU staff are interested in hearing from businesses and other groups and individuals regarding proposed regulations. RRU also works with state regulatory agencies, and contacts the sponsoring agency on nearly every proposed regulation reviewed. The primary goals of these efforts are to minimize economic impacts on regulated parties, improve public-private communications, and encourage interagency cooperation. Any RRU staff member can be contacted directly, as listed below:

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(Also visit our Web site at <http://commerce.ca.gov/regreview>)

The Regulation Review Unit evaluates the impact of **proposed** regulations.  
See bottom of next page for assistance on **existing** regulations.

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## Contacting Regulatory Agencies

RRU reviews of proposed regulations supplement, but do not substitute for other public input in the rulemaking process. Regulated and interested parties need to contact and work with state regulatory agencies on proposed regulations. The agencies can provide the text of their proposals, an Initial Statement of Reasons, the Economic & Fiscal Impact Statement (STD. 399 form), and other documents that explain the proposed regulations. Interested parties should ask agencies for a copy of their completed STD. 399, since the form provides a summary of the potential economic impacts that would result from the proposed regulations.

Most state agencies maintain mailing lists to announce proposed regulations and regulation-related activities, such as public hearings and workshops. Nearly all state agencies have a Web site on the Internet, and some provide information on their proposed regulations there. State agency Web sites can be accessed through the State of California Home Page at <http://www.ca.gov>.

## Tracking Proposed Regulations

The state rulemaking process is overseen by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), an independent agency in the executive branch. OAL was created to ensure that regulations are authorized by statute, consistent with existing laws, and written in a comprehensible manner. (The rulemaking portion of the Administrative Procedure Act begins with Government Code section 11340.)

Notices of proposed actions by state agencies to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations in the California Code of Regulations are published weekly in the *California Regulatory Notice Register*. (The *Register* Table of Contents and the California Code of Regulations are on the OAL Web site.) Please be aware that proposed regulatory actions can take up to one year from the date of publication to complete. However, the public comment period is normally only 45 calendar days from the date of publication.

Also available from OAL are two publications on the regulatory process: *California Rulemaking Law* and *Rulemaking by California State Agencies and the Role of the Office of Administrative Law*. To subscribe to the weekly *Register*, or to receive other publications or rulemaking information, contact OAL at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Office of Administrative Law  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 1290  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4602

Phone: (916) 323-6225  
Fax: (916) 323-6826  
Internet: <http://www.oal.ca.gov>

### Comment on Existing Regulations

*The executive and legislative branches of state government have taken numerous actions to make existing regulations less costly and intrusive on the businesses and people of California. Within the Trade and Commerce Agency, the Office of Small Business (OSB) is continuously soliciting comments on existing regulations. Contact OSB at (916) 324-5068, or via their Web site at <http://commerce.ca.gov/business/small>.*